

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0358

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

AABJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY OF AD HOC GROUP MEETING

OF OCTOBER 24, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT ITS OCTOBER 24 MEETING,
AD HOC GROUP (AHG) HEARD REPORT ON BILATERALS, DISCUSSED
EASTERN LEAK TO PRESS, AND CONSIDERED TACTICS FOR NEXT
INFORMAL SESSION AND WHETHER THE ALLIES SHOULD MAKE
A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY STATEMENT AT THE OCTOBER 31
PLENARY SESSION. END SUMMARY.

BILATERALS

2. FRG DEPREP (HOFMANN) REPORTED ON OCTOBER 24
CONVERSATION WITH GDR DEPREP (WIELAND) AND SOVIET
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REP (KHLESTOV).

KHLESTOV HAD SAID HE WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT THE OCT. 24 FRG PLENARY STATEMENT ARGUMENT ABOUT WESTERN SECURITY DEPENDING ON STRATEGIC DETERRENCE WAS RELEVANT, SINCE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND AIRCRAFT IN THE NGA ALSO PLAYED A ROLE WITHIN THE OVERALL STRATEGIC DETERRENT. WIELAND QUESTIONED THE UTILITY OF MANPOWER AS A YARDSTICK OF MILITARY CAPABILITY, REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT THE US WAS INCREASING ITS FORCES BY TWO COMBAT BRIGADES AND THE FRG WAS INCREASING FROM 33 TO 36 BRIGADES, WHILE MAINTAINING THE SAME MANPOWER LEVELS. (US REP LATER BRIEFED AHG ON THESE US PLANS). CONFIRMING SOVIET DELOFF SHUSTOV'S COMMENT TO US DELOFF, WIELAND ALSO SAID THAT EAST WOULD DISCUSS THE REDEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES, BUT ADDED THAT EAST SAW ADDITIONAL DISPARITIES, FOR EXAMPLE, THE ALLIES ALLEGEDLY DID NOT COUNT ARMY PERSONNEL IN CENTRAL MILITARY HEADQUARTERS. WIELAND ALSO QUESTIONED THE UTILITY OF DISCUSSING THE DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES AT ALL, SINCE THESE PROBLEMS DISAPPEARED IF REDUCTIONS INCLUDED BOTH AIR AND GROUND FORCES.

EASTERN PRESS LEAK

3. US DEP REPORTED THAT POLISH DELOFF (WIECZOREK) HAD TOLD AN AUSTRIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION CORRESPONDENT AFTER OCT. 24 PLENARY THAT EAST HAD PRESENTED A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL "IN INFORMAL SESSIONS" TO BRIDGE DIFFERENCES

BETWEEN THE SIDES, TO MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD, AND TO ACHIEVE START ON REDUCTIONS IN 1975. UK, BELGIAN AND FRG REPS REPORTED THAT THEY HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS TO COMMENT ON WIECZOREK'S STATEMENT AND HAD SAID LATEST EASTERN IDEAS WERE "NOTHING NEW." AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, AHG AGREED TO AVOID PROVIDING DETAILS OF EASTERN PROPOSAL AND TO RESPOND TO SUCH QUESTIONS ALONG LINES THAT PROPOSAL WAS FLOATED INFORMALLY AND CONTAINED NOTHING SUBSTANTIIVELY DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS EASTERN SUGGESTIONS.

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ALLIED TACTICS

4. GROUP AGREED THAT ALLIES SHOULD NOT ALLOW FOCUS OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS TO SHIFT TO FRAMEWORK OF EASTERN FIRST STEP PROPOSALS. GROUP NOTED THAT ALLIES COULD NOT IGNORE OFFICIAL EASTERN PROPOSAL, BUT AGREED THAT AT OCT. 29 INFORMAL SESSION ALLIED REPS SHOULD REITERATE OBJECTIONS, CHALLENGE EAST TO SHOW HOW THEIR PROPOSAL IS IN

FACT NEW, AND PICK UP THE POSITIVE POINTS ON PHASING IN
THE EASTERN PROPOSAL AND SEEK TO DRAW THEM INTO THE CON-
TEXT OF WESTERN POSITION ON PHASING. AHG ALSO AGREED THAT ALLIED
REPS SHOULD PRESS EAST AT OCT. 29 INFORMAL FOR DISCUSSION
OF GROUND FORCE REDEFINITION.RESOR

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